THE SUNNY SIDE

OMELETTE YOU FINISH, BUT THIS IS THE BEST BRUNCH PREVIEW OF ALL TIME

PAGES 8-10

Renaming the Hancock 4 Muhammad Ali's Chicago years 6 9 Negroni Week options 11

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

FREE

SWEET TALK

Next Door
659 W. Diversey Parkway 773-472-3667

Have complimentary macaroons while listening to Chicago writers and performers share stories based on the theme "Out." 7-8 p.m. Register: **eventbrite.com**

SEAFOOD SHACK POP UP

Chicago Distilling Company
2359 N. Milwaukee Ave. 872-206-2774

SinkSwim serves oysters and other bites paired with the Logan Square distillery's signature gin and tonics. 6-9 p.m. $18. Tickets: **eventbrite.com**

DRINK

SAKE GENIUS BAR

Kizuki Ramen & Izakaya
1482 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-270-4150

Grab a seat at the Wicker Park restaurant's bar and learn about how sake is made and how the spirit's complex flavors pair with the dishes on the four-course menu, which rotates weekly. 7-10 p.m. $32-$40. Tickets: **eventbrite.com**

DO

FREE

'THE CURE'

Chicago Cultural Center, Yates Gallery
78 E. Washington St. 312-744-3316

Walkabout Theater Company presents the world premiere play about a group of doctors, patients and mythological figures drawn to a decaying greenhouse in search of immortality. 8 p.m. Tickets: **walkabouttheater.org/the-cure**

#SWEATWORKINGWEEK

Multiple gym locations

Gyms throughout the city offer morning, lunchtime and evening classes through Sunday including cycling, CrossFit and yoga. Sign up for a session to get an invite to a closing pool party. $15; $60 for an unlimited pass. Tickets: **asweatlife.com/sweatworkingweek**

3-DAY FORECAST

MONDAY
76 62
Boo

TUESDAY
68 58
Meh

WEDNESDAY
76 56
Woot

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Save the date

Eat, Drink, Do's weekly look at a month's worth of shows, tunes, foodie and boozy fun and more

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 5	Head back to Page 2 for today's Eat. Drink. Do. events. 6	**LEGENDARY CHICAGO CHEFS ROAST AT RIVER ROAST** *315 N. LaSalle St. 312-822-0100* A group of chefs prepare a four-course dinner and then roast one another at this benefit for the Greater Chicago Food Depository. 6-9 p.m. $75. Tickets: **chicagochefsroast.brownpapertickets.com** 7	8	9	**SWINGIN' SPRING FLING GALA AT DUET DANCE STUDIO** *2412 W. North Ave. 312-823-8199* A BYOB bash celebrating the studio's new space includes a beginner swing class, live music from Shout Section Big Band, appetizers and a champagne toast. 8-11 p.m. $25. Tickets: **swingspringfling.eventbrite.com** 10	11
12	**OPEN MODEL CALL AT MARIO TRICOCI** *900 N. Michigan Ave. 847-202-1900* Enter the annual Mario, Make Me A Model contest for a shot at getting a professional makeover and runway training and appearing in a TV commercial. 4 p.m. Free. 13	Firecakes doughnut 14	15	**CRAVINGS ON CLARK RESTAURANT CRAWL** *2558 N. Clark St. 773-880-5200* Try dishes from Lincoln Park restaurants and take free pedicab rides through the neighborhood at the third annual event, which benefits Lakeview Pantry. 6-9 p.m. $30-$40. Tickets: **visitclarkstreet.com/cravings** 16	**CHICAGO LITERACY ALLIANCE MINIGOLF MINIGALA AT THE LITERACENTER** *641 W. Lake St. 312-690-4227* Play mini golf for a shot at winning prizes at this benefit bash that includes food, drinks and a raffle awarding tickets to "Hamilton." 5-8 p.m. $50. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 17	18
HANDS-ON BAKING CLASS: SAVORY PIES AT READ IT & EAT *2142 N. Halsted St. 773-661-6158* Learn how to make pie dough for potato gratin hand pies, summer squash tarts and apple onion galette. 1-3 p.m. $60. Tickets: **readitandeatstore.com** 19	20	21	**WINE & YOUR WARDROBE AT SEVEN LIONS** *130 S. Michigan Ave. 312-880-0130* Drew Harris of Shop Your Closets shares tips on how to get the most out of your wardrobe during an intimate wine tasting. 6-7:30 p.m. $45. Tickets: **seven-lions.ticketleap.com** 22	23	24	**RACHAEL RAY'S FEEDBACK AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO** *2001 N. Clark St. 312-742-2000* Catch performances from Grace Potter and more, and have food from the celebrity chef along with beer, wine and cocktails. $49.50-$69.50. 6-11 p.m. Tickets: **feedbackchicago.com** 25
BILL KIM'S BACKYARD BBQ SUMMER SERIES AT BELLYQ *1400 W. Randolph St. 312-455-8626* Giuseppe Tentori of GT Fish & Oyster cooks summer barbecue fare on the West Loop restaurant's patio for a family-style meal. 1-4 p.m. $45. Tickets: **bellyqchicago.com** 26	27	28	**COOKING WITH BEER AT BESPOKE CUISINE** *1358 W. Randolph St. 312-455-8400* Learn how to make flank steak skewers with beer mustard sauce, beer-brined pork chops and other booze-infused dishes at this BYOB class. 6:30-9:30 p.m. $65. Tickets: **bespokecuisine.com** 29	**225 @ 5 AT CAFFE BACI** *225 W. Wacker Drive 312-251-0135* Have four drinks from Half Acre Beer Company and Few Spirits paired with five courses of one bites from chef Cleetus Friedman. 5-7 p.m. $40. Tickets: **caffebaci.com** 30	July 1	2

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Tips for renaming the John Hancock Center

The Second City NETWORK
Greg Ott
» @TheSecondCity

The John Hancock Center, Michigan Avenue's best destination for overpriced appetizers and Geek Squad appointments, may be changing its name thanks to a proposed $10 million redevelopment plan. If the proposal goes through, the building's naming rights will be sold to the highest bidder, adding a new title in big, bold letters to the third floor facade. With the tantalizing prospect of new branding opportunities and a new-and-improved Cheesecake Factory, here's a look at some of the most likely and appropriate suitors who'd be willing to pony up the cash to leave an even bigger mark on the Windy City.

MICHAEL JORDAN TOWER: Not only does the immortal No. 23 have deep pockets and a lifetime of positive Chicago name recognition, the building itself may prove to be useful collateral in settling future gambling debts.

RICHARD DALEY TOWER: Under this proposal, the interior of the building will be completely gutted and sold to the lowest no-bid contractor for 75 years.

TRUMP CENTER: John Hancock famously left his huge signature on the Declaration of Independence. There's no better way to honor that memory than by letting our country's last president add his gaudy, tacky name in huge silver block letters to yet another downtown building's exterior mere months before the next Declaration of Independence is signed.

GIORDANO'S PORTILLO'S NAVY PIER CHINATOWN AU CHEVAL CLOUD GATE AND THE GOAT: It'd be nice to have just one place to tell people from out of town to go.

SKYBOX ON MICHIGAN: Wrigley Field's rooftop-obstructing video screens have completely ruined the thrill of seeing a baseball game from what feels like the tacky living room of a trust-fund baby. Though several miles away, the view from the observation deck can't be much worse than staring at "Budweiser" in reverse. Plus, Michigan Avenue's gawking tourists, traffic and price gouging offer a comparable experience to attending an actual Cubs game.

VENTRA CENTER: You'll have to tap the doors 10 times before entering.

RICK BAYLESS TWR: This trendy, building-inspired skyscraper offers a modern twist on the classic structure with an emphasis on cultural appropriation and $13 tortas that taste better when compared with other options at the airport.

SEARS TOWER: We're going to keep calling some building downtown by that name, so why not try to make it official again?

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOWER: Rather than opening and closing schools throughout the city like a game of Whac-A-Mole, why not send the city's 400,000 students downtown into one big building? You'd only need 100 teachers to handle the 4,000 students on each floor, allowing the city to reduce its number of current teachers by five.

RAHM EMANUEL CENTER: Anything that paints the building in a bad light will be covered up, one-fifth of the antenna will be chopped off and only the north side of the tower will get any attention.

GREG OTT IS A MEMBER OF THE SECOND CITY TOURING COMPANY. HIS WEBSITE, ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE, IS GREG-OTT.COM, AND HIS INSTAGRAM IS @GREGOTT. GET MORE FROM THE SECOND CITY AT SECONDCITY.COM.

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Attend an information session to learn more!

Tuesday, June 14 · 11am-1pm
Harold Washington Library Center (400 S. State St., Chicago)

Tuesday, June 14 · 4-6pm
Northtown Library (6435 N. California Ave., Chicago)

Wednesday, June 15 · 3-5:30pm
Skokie Public Library (5215 Oakton St., Skokie)

More dates/locations listed on our website!

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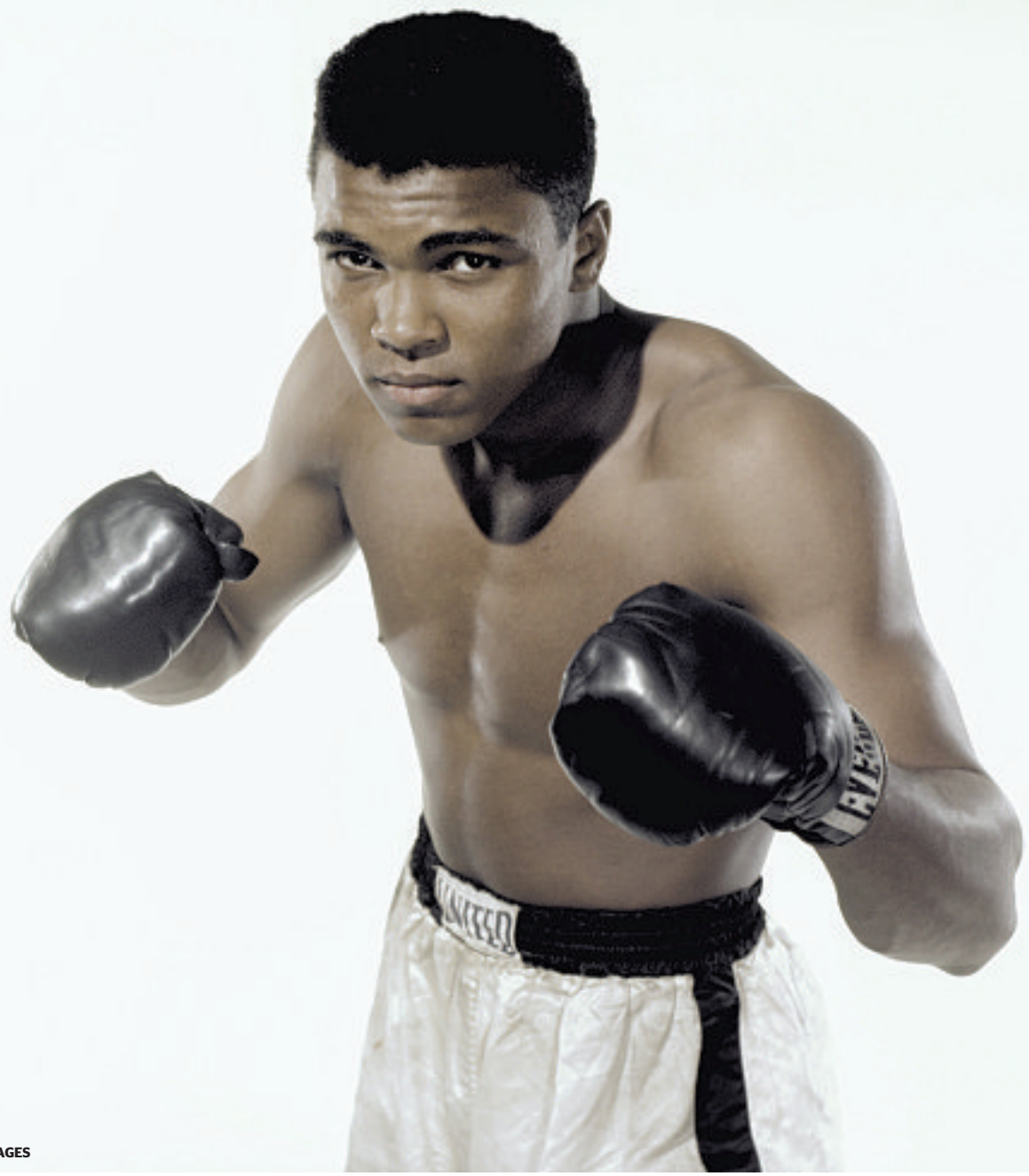
'LEARNING ABOUT LIFE'

MUHAMMAD ALI'S EXILE YEARS IN CHICAGO



GETTY IMAGES

By Dahleen Glanton | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

During his years exiled from the boxing ring, dethroned heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali found refuge on the South Side of Chicago.

Stripped of his boxing title after refusing to fight in the Vietnam War, Ali immersed himself in Islam, his newfound religion. And as the country that once hailed him as "The Greatest" cast him aside, the South Side—home of the Nation of Islam—stepped in to embrace him.

Shortly after announcing that he had converted to Islam in 1964, Ali spent more than a decade in and out of Chicago. He first settled into a small, third-floor apartment in the 7000 block of South Cregier Avenue. By the time he left Chicago for good in the late 1970s, he had bought a 28-room mansion in Kenwood, two blocks from Nation of Islam leader, Elijah Muhammad.

During his early years on the South Side, Ali tried to blend in. He strolled alone underneath the "L" tracks, casually dressed in a button-down shirt and slacks. He hung out with friends at the automobile garage at 69th Street and Stony Island Avenue. Often, he could be found at the Nation of Islam's bakery on 79th Street, flirting with the teenage waitress who would become his second wife.

"The most crucial time of his life was in Chicago," said Khalilah Camacho-Ali, a suburban Chicago native who married Ali in 1967. "These exile years were tough for him. He was growing and learning more about the religion. He was learning about life. All of this was during the struggle of the civil rights period, and he saw the rise of racism and the effect of racism on him."

It was in Chicago, according to those who knew him best, that the transformation from Cassius Clay to Muhammad Ali took shape. For nearly four years, he lived freely in Chicago while the appeal of his draft evasion conviction made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. With a five-year jail sentence hanging over his head, he went toe to toe with adversity, turning down millions of dollars to stand up for what he believed was right.

On the South Side, people praised him for his courage. In many other places in the country, he was just another draft dodger.

The 25-year-old Ali and his 17-year-old Muslim bride were married in a small ceremony at their home at 85th Street and South Jeffery Boulevard in South Shore. Camacho-Ali said she and Ali, whom she divorced in 1977, lived as "regular people" in Chicago. But Ali's notoriety and conversion to Islam also brought unwelcome attention. The year before he married Camacho-Ali, the South Side apartment where he lived with his first wife was severely damaged in a suspicious fire. It occurred the same day that Ali's friend, Malcolm X, was shot to death in New York.

"Being a Muslim was a big controversy. In

America, people objected to him belonging to a controversial group that was a nation within our own nation," said Camacho-Ali, who grew up in the Nation of Islam. "... These were young, tender times and these were battlefields that he had to go through and learn from."

He was as vocal as Malcolm X when it came to the Nation of Islam, but people on the South Side were drawn to him for another reason.

"He was able to be both larger-than-life and completely down-to-earth simultaneously," said Chicago director Bill Siegel, whose 2013 documentary "The Trials of Muhammad Ali" documented Ali's four years out of the ring. "His ability to represent himself on an individual level and accept the role of being a symbol of defiance and courage is a huge part of his legacy."

While making the film, Siegel said he encountered many people who once had casual encounters with Ali in Chicago. One man remembered as a child sitting on Ali's lap at a Halloween party. A woman recalled the time she got a flat tire on the Dan Ryan Expressway and Ali pulled up in his Cadillac and fixed it for her, Siegel said.

Ali remained a pariah for much of official Illinois. Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner called Ali "unpatriotic." Mayor Richard J. Daley, though sympathetic to Elijah Muhammad and the thousands of potential voters he controlled, refused to call Ali by his Muslim name.

Except for winning the Golden Gloves title in Chicago in 1959, Ali never fought a bout in Chicago. In 1966, Ali was to defend his championship against Ernie Terrell in Chicago. But Daley, along with Kerner and other politicians, rescinded his Illinois boxing license so that the fight could not take place in Chicago and urged the Illinois Athletic Commission to cancel the bout altogether.

Ali was at a corner grocery store on 79th

Muhammad Ali addresses a gathering at a Black Muslim convention in Chicago in February 1968. AP FILE PHOTO

Street in 1971 when he heard that the Supreme Court had overturned his conviction. "I had just bought an orange when the owner came out and hugged me with tears in his eyes and told me I'd just been vindicated," Ali told reporters in a scene shown in the documentary.

After the ruling, the country's feelings toward Ali softened. Within a few years, Daley had made a complete turnaround. In 1974, after Ali won the championship back from George Foreman, Daley held a reception for Ali at City Hall, where he praised him for "the things the champ stands for" and awarded him the city's Medal of Merit.

The proclamation read like a poem:

"I Richard J. Daley, mayor of the city
Do proclaim for this champion, clever and witty,
For Muhammad Ali his own special day
For receiving the honors he won the hard way."

Ali accepted gracefully. Nearly a decade after Daley refused him a boxing license, all was forgiven in his adopted hometown.

"I can't be angry with him," Ali told reporters. "Times have changed. I think Daley's changed."

Timeline

1942: Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville, Ky.

1960: Wins the light heavyweight gold medal at the Rome Olympics. A month later, wins first fight as a pro.

1964: Wins heavyweight title for first time. Joins the Nation of Islam shortly after. Changes name to Muhammad Ali.

1966: Conscientiously objects to serving in the Vietnam War.

1967: Refuses induction into the Army, is stripped of his boxing titles and banned from competing for three years.

1970: Returns to the ring in Atlanta and defeats Jerry Quarry.

1971: Supreme Court overturns Ali's conviction, rules he was not guilty of evading war. Loses a 15-round decision to Joe Frazier in what is tabbed "The Fight of the Century."

1974: Defeats Frazier at Madison Square Garden. Later that year, regains heavyweight title by defeating George Foreman in the "Rumble in the Jungle" in Kinshasa, Zaire.

1975: Beats Frazier to retain title in the "Thrilla in Manila."

1978: Loses title to Leon Spinks but wins it for the third and final time exactly seven months later.

1981: Loses to Trevor Berbick; retires two days later at 39.

1983: Is inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame.

1984: Says he has Parkinson's disease.

1990: Negotiates the release of 14 U.S. hostages from Iraq.

1996: Lights the Olympic flame for the Summer Games in Atlanta.

2005: Is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by George W. Bush.

2016: Ali dies at age 74.

—PAUL SKRBINA AND CHICAGO TRIBUNE STAFF

eat&drink

Love you a brunch

14 restaurants in Chicago that do brunch right

By Samantha Nelson | FOR REDEYE

Chicago's food scene is bursting at the seams with fare from around the world plus local and regional favorites. It's safe to say there are officially too many options. Now is the time to think beyond dinner and start your foodie adventures in the morning. Whether you're looking for an Italian-inspired benedict, a plate of dim sum or a mimosa made with sake, this batch of 14 new brunches offers plenty of global flavors plus all the classics you crave.

▲ 3 Greens Market

354 W. Hubbard St. 312-888-9195

Launched: May 21

Dishes: The River North spot from Brendan Sodikoff offers brunch items at its hot bar for $9.95 a pound including biscuits with pastrami gravy, potato hash, cheesy grits, oatmeal and maple-glazed bacon.

Drinks: Build your own bloody mary with a housemade mix and garnishes including feta-stuffed olives, organic salami and bread & butter pickles from Au Cheval ($12), or grab a hot spiked drink like the Scotch & Honey made with The Famous Grouse, vanilla almond syrup, honey and steamed milk and topped with an orange peel ($7).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. No reservations.

Duck Duck Goat ▶

857 W. Fulton Market 312-902-3825

Launched: May 1

Dishes: Another way to get a table at Stephanie Izard's new hot spot. The West Loop restaurant added a dim sum brunch serving bites including beef short rib and bone marrow potstickers ($11) and larger dishes such as duck fried rice with soft-boiled duck egg ($15).

Drinks: The cocktail and beer list is the same for brunch and dinner, though Izard did add a **guava-lychee bubble tea** with the brunch launch ($6).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday. Reservations accepted.

Arami

1829 W. Chicago Ave. 312-243-1535

Launched: May 1

Dishes: Japanese flavors and American brunch fare blend at the West Town spot, which serves French toast fritters with miso maple syrup and matcha powdered sugar ($7) and sweet potato hash with pork belly, asparagus and fried, scrambled or slow-cooked eggs ($10).

Drinks: The cocktail menu offers a bloody mary made with shochu, tomato, sriracha and togarashi or a sparkling sake mimosa with Aperol and mandarin orange juice (both $10).

Brunch time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Reservations accepted.

▲ Smack Shack

326 N. Morgan St. 312-973-1336

Launched: April 30

Dishes: Inspired by the brunches of New Orleans' French Quarter, the Fulton Market seafood joint offers bourbon French toast with blackberries, bacon and whipped cream ($13) and Southern fried chicken and waffles served with maple syrup and honey butter ($17).

Drinks: The **bloody mary** is seasoned with Cajun spices and hot sauce and garnished with shrimp, sausage and cheese ($10).

Brunch time: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Reservations accepted.

Oyster Bah

1962 N. Halsted St. 773-248-3000

Launched: Feb. 7

Dishes: Seafood rules the Lincoln Park restaurant's brunch menu, with options including cheesy shrimp & grits with poached eggs and lobster-tomato gravy and a fried oyster benedict topped with Tabasco butter (both $13.95).

Drinks: Oyster's Bloody keeps the shellfish love alive with a cocktail shrimp garnish and beer back ($13.50). For something lighter, go with the Coastal Mimosa, a blend of vodka, blood orange liqueur, pineapple syrup, blood orange puree and sparkling rosé ($11).

Brunch time: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Reservations accepted.

MAD Social ▶

1140 W. Madison St. 312-243-2097

Launched: April 9

Dishes: Satisfy your sweet tooth with buttermilk pancakes served with salted caramel whipped butter and berries ($10), or try the West Loop spot's **salmon gravlax** with cured salmon, charred scallion cream cheese, avocado, poached eggs, balsamic and micro greens atop sourdough bread ($14). Add house potatoes ($4) or smoked bacon ($4) as a side.

Drinks: Pair your pancakes with the Bacon & Eggs, a blend of bacon-infused Buffalo Trace, maple syrup and egg white ($12), or opt for the Sangre Verde, a bloody mary-style drink made with pepper-infused vodka, roasted tomatillos, cilantro and jalapenos ($11).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Reservations accepted.

◀ GreenRiver

259 E. Erie St. 312-337-0101

Launched: May 8

Dishes: Enjoy the views from the 18th floor Streeterville restaurant while noshing on cheddar biscuits with sausage gravy and fried chicken thigh or corned beef hash with ramps and English peas (both $19)

Drinks: Head bartender Julia Momose brings her innovative flair to brunch with cocktails including the Geshi Gin & Tonic made with sake and saffron and orange bitters, and Sorolla's Bellini, which blends peach liqueur, sherry, grapefruit juice and cava (both $14).

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CONTINUE ON PAGE 10 »

eat&drink

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1140 W. Madison St. 312-243-2097

Launched: April 9

Dishes: Satisfy your sweet tooth with buttermilk pancakes served with salted caramel whipped butter and berries ($10), or try the West Loop spot's **salmon gravlax** with cured salmon, charred scallion cream cheese, avocado, poached eggs, balsamic and micro greens atop sourdough bread ($14). Add house potatoes ($4) or smoked bacon ($4) as a side.

Drinks: Pair your pancakes with the Bacon & Eggs, a blend of bacon-infused Buffalo Trace, maple syrup and egg white ($12), or opt for the Sangre Verde, a bloody mary-style drink made with pepper-infused vodka, roasted tomatillos, cilantro and jalapenos ($11).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Reservations accepted.

◀ GreenRiver

259 E. Erie St. 312-337-0101

Launched: May 8

Dishes: Enjoy the views from the 18th floor Streeterville restaurant while noshing on cheddar biscuits with sausage gravy and fried chicken thigh or corned beef hash with ramps and English peas (both $19)

Drinks: Head bartender Julia Momose brings her innovative flair to brunch with cocktails including the Geshi Gin & Tonic made with sake and saffron and orange bitters, and Sorolla's Bellini, which blends peach liqueur, sherry, grapefruit juice and cava (both $14).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Reservations accepted.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 10 »

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Saint Lou's Assembly ▶

664 W. Lake St. 312-600-0600

Launched: May 14

Dishes: Chef Jared Wentworth's cafeteria-style spot serves hearty eats including **buttermilk biscuits topped with gravy** ($13) and French toast with whipped butter and maple syrup ($11).

Drinks: Keep it simple with the classic bloody mary ($8), or opt to add three garnishes ($10) from at least 16 rotating options including pickled quail eggs and Wisconsin cheddar. Beverage director Dustin Drankiewicz also made sure to put the Harvey Wallbanger ($8) on the menu; it's a favorite from his time at The Promontory and blends vodka, orange juice and Galliano served with a high five.

Brunch time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. No reservations.

The Blanchard

1935 N. Lincoln Park West 872-829-3971

Launched: May 8

Dishes: Indulge with a $48 three-course menu, or order a la carte with options like crepes with housemade nutella, caramelized bananas, vanilla gastrique and powdered sugar ($12), pork schnitzel served with frisee salad, poached egg and hollandaise sauce ($18) and lavender crème brulee topped with raspberry jelly, berries and bananas ($10).

Drinks: Stick with a classic and order a bloody mary made with lardon and peppercorn-infused vodka, or give your morning a kick with the Frances, a blend of reposado tequila, espresso and creole bitters (both $12).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday. Reservations accepted.

Americano 2211

2211 W. North Ave. 773-360-8757

Launched: April 13

Dishes: Cruise the pastry case with housemade options such as rosemary-sea salt biscuits ($2.50) and banana yogurt cardamom tea cake ($3.75), or go all out with the shakshuka ($11), a cast-iron dish stuffed with spicy tomato sauce, poached eggs, mustard greens and hunks of grilled bread.

Drinks: Get your caffeine fix through a variety of coffee drinks including lattes ($4), cortados ($3.25), espresso ($2.75) and more.

Brunch time: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. No reservations.

Circa

521 N. Rush St. 312-645-1500

Launched: May 16

Dishes: The brand new spot within The Gwen serves twists on classic fare such as open-face smoked salmon rye toast with lemon-dill cream cheese, crispy capers, pickled red onion, cucumber and chopped egg ($19) and a quiche made with prosciutto di Parma, buttered leeks and white cheddar with an arugula and orange salad on the side ($16).

Drinks: Sip a bloody mary with a housemade mix incorporating tomato juice, sriracha, horseradish and avocado and a garnish of celery and bleu cheese olives ($12), or go healthy with a strawberry-banana smoothie ($12).

Brunch time: 6:30-11 a.m. Monday through Friday and 7-11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Reservations accepted.

◀ Mott St

1401 N. Ashland Ave. 773-687-9977

Launched: March 13

Dishes: The West Town Asian fusion spot's take on brunch includes gluten-free coconut pancakes made with coconut cream, coconut flakes and pink peppercorn ($12) and **congee, a Thai rice porridge with sausage, fish sauce, ginger, cilantro and fresh lime** ($10).

Drinks: Get your caffeine fix from Leon's Velocette, which blends black tea, shochu, cinnamon, pink peppercorn and evaporated milk, or try the Wicker Snapper, a spin on a bloody mary made with gin, clarified tomato, basil, sambal and salt and pepper (both $10).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Reservations accepted.

La Storia

1154 N. Dearborn St. 312-508-5061

Launched: May 8

Dishes: Get your eggs benedict on at the Gold Coast spot, which offers twists on the dish including the Benedetto di Asparagi with poached eggs, speck, grilled asparagus and parmigiano-reggiano atop housemade ciabatta and the Nostro Benedetto with crispy poached eggs, prosciutto di Parma, heirloom tomatoes, fava bean salad and pea shoots (both $16).

Drinks: Italian spirits are flowing on the brunch menu with sippers including the Bella Strega, made with Strega saffron liqueur, vodka and lemon, and the Zucca Spritz, a blend of tonic and Zucca rhubarb amaro (both $12).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Reservations accepted.

Dos Urban Cantina

2829 W. Armitage Ave. 773-661-6452

Launched: May 15

Dishes: Graze on a $24 brunch buffet at the Logan Square Mexican restaurant featuring a guacamole bar, chilaquiles, sweet corn tamales, empanadas and cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting.

Drinks: Opt for a mimosa made with your choice of fresh-squeezed orange juice, pineapple juice and mint, or prickly pear and lime ($10), or share a half-gallon of margaritas or palomas ($40).

Brunch time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Reservations accepted.

Let's negroni

Tesori
65 E. Adams St.
312-786-9911
The Boulevardier ($12) appeals to whiskey lovers by trading gin for Eagle Rare bourbon, which is mixed with Campari and Carpano Antica vermouth and garnished with an orange twirl.
Benefiting: United States Bartenders' Guild

9 WAYS TO SIP YOUR WAY THROUGH NEGRONI WEEK

By Samantha Nelson | FOR REDEYE

Strong and bitter, the negroni might not seem like a natural summer sipper, but more than 50 Chicago bars and restaurants are hoping to change your mind this week. The fourth annual Negroni Week kicks off today and runs through Sunday with specialty cocktails that kick a portion of proceeds to charity. While the traditional cocktail requires just three ingredients—gin, Campari and vermouth—these Chicago spots are putting their own spins on the formula to surprise your taste buds all week.

Drumbar
201 E. Delaware Place 312-933-4805
Grab some friends and split the Negroni Punch ($25), a blend of Angel's Envy bourbon, Campari, port, citrus fruit and strawberries served in a mini-bourbon barrel with its own spigot. Or just stop in for the King Arthur ($8), which features pisco, white vermouth and Campari served over a giant ice cube with an orange peel garnish. You can also eat your booze with the Gold Coast rooftop bar's negroni ice cream cones ($8), made with gin, Campari, cardamom and candied citrus peel.
Benefiting: Un86'd

Cindy's
12 S. Michigan Ave. 312-792-3502
The rooftop restaurant takes the challenge to spice up the negroni literally with A Sparkling Escape to Ruins ($13), which features mezcal, ancho chili liqueur, Campari, prosecco and vermouth.
Benefiting: Un86'd

Cochon Volant
100 W. Monroe St. 312-754-6560
Cool off at The Loop bistro with the Negroni Daily Shave ($15), a mix of gin, Campari, orange juice and Italian vermouth poured over shaved ice.
Benefiting: Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

The Drifter
676 N. Orleans St. 312-631-3887
The River North speakeasy takes the Italian drink on a Caribbean vacation with the Dominican Negroni ($12), which blends Atlantico private cask rum, Campari, creme de cacao, housemade Mamajuana vermouth and passionfruit cordial.
Benefiting: The Anti-Cruelty Society

312 Chicago
136 N. LaSalle St. 312-696-2420
A fusion between a Ramos Gin Fizz and a Negroni, the Negroni Fizz ($13) features gin, sweet vermouth, simple syrup, lemon juice, egg white and soda water topped with Campari-infused gelato from Franklin Park's Angelo Gelato Italiano.
Benefiting: Un86'ed

Farm Bar
1300 W. Wellington Ave. 773-281-2599
The Lakeview restaurant's fruity Accident Prone ($12) blends Death's Door gin, Campari, Leopold Bros. Michigan tart cherry liqueur, egg whites and lime, pineapple and Luxardo cherry juices.
Benefiting: Chicago Lights Urban Farm

Sparrow
12 W. Elm St. 312-725-0732
The Gold Coast lounge's version of the negroni sweetens the drink with coconut-infused rum and chocolate bitters blended with Campari, housemade vermouth and Finest Roots amaro ($12).
Benefiting: PAWS Chicago

Lone Wolf
806 W. Randolph St. 312-600-9391
The West Loop tavern's Negroni Sgroppino features a blend of Campari, gin, vermouth, orange bitters orange juice and lemon frozen in an ice cream maker so it can be scooped into a glass and topped with prosecco ($12).
Benefiting: Un86'ed

SAMANTHA NELSON IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.

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horoscopes

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Gemini *May 21—June 20*
If you're single, this will be an amazing week to get yourself out there. First, on Monday, the very best of who you are will sparkle. Use this incredible vibe to impress someone worth your time and mind. On Sunday, a date with someone you meet from a dating app or internet dating site will go much better than anticipated. Or, you might meet someone unexpectedly while out with your pals.

Cancer *June 21—July 22*
Expect better luck in matters of the heart if you honor your need for private time. You and your sweetie might decide to spend time alone rather than with friends or family. There's a good chance you'll connect mentally and spiritually if you're willing to put your relationship first this week. If you and your partner are going through a rough patch, a breakthrough in couple's counseling this week is possible.

Leo *July 23—Aug. 22*
This will be an amazing week for social fun and romantic possibilities. First, if you and a friend are on the fence about whether or not to explore any mutual chemistry, be sure to talk about it. The open dialogue will likely erase any reservations you have. Alternatively, if you're single, it's possible that you'll meet someone in the most unexpected way.

Virgo *Aug. 23—Sept. 22*
You might be in the spotlight for a career achievement, and if so, your partner will be your greatest cheerleader. He or she will help to boost your confidence even more as you enjoy your time in the sun. Expect plenty of compliments and a genuine feeling that no matter what, your partner has your back. On Sunday, you might even enjoy unexpected, positive financial news together.

Libra *Sept. 23—Oct. 22*
Your lover might surprise you this week with amazing news. He or she might be ready to celebrate earning an advanced degree or certification. Or, it's possible that one of you will hear news about a book deal, favorable legal matter or international project that is about to pay off nicely. Another possibility is that the two of you will decide it's time to finally take that dream vacation together overseas. Start planning!

Scorpio *Oct. 23—Nov. 21*
Expect financial blessings that you will surely enjoy with your mate. It's possible that a joint investment is about to pay off nicely. Alternatively, if either of you has a health issue that requires attention, a solution might arrive out of the blue. Although it might be out of the box, it's likely to work.

Sagitarrius *Nov. 22—Dec. 21*
Relationship harmony will be off the charts this week! On Monday, you and your partner will enjoy the most dazzling vibes between the Sun and Venus. You're likely to share brilliant conversation and discover new ways to keep your romance from turning into a stale, boring mess. In fact, on Sunday, you're likely to be in an extra experimental mood together. If you are in a rut, this is definitely the week to expect a change. Yowza!

Capricorn *Dec. 22—Jan. 19*
You and your partner are likely to be working happily on a home-related project this week. It could be anything from fixing up a home office or gym to clearing out the clutter in your garage or basement. Consider holding a yard sale this weekend. Not only will you make space for what you really want around the house, but you'll also enjoy an unexpectedly generous profit.

Aquarius *Jan. 20—Feb. 18*
Romance most certainly has the potential to be the highlight of your week! First, on Monday, the Sun and Venus embrace, making it easy for you and your lover to enjoy happy-go-lucky vibes. If single, try to schedule a first date with someone special after work. If you can't make it on Monday, no worries, Sunday is another five-star day. The weekend will have plenty of fireworks. Enjoy them!

Pisces *Feb. 19—March 20*
Your family might appear to be more in love with your sweetheart this week than they are with you. OK, maybe that's a stretch, but your tribe will certainly have nothing but good things to say about your lover. Expect them to ask more questions about your partner or even hang out with him or her. If you're dating someone new, this will be an ideal time to introduce your new sweetie to your relatives.

Aries *March 21—April 19*
You and your sweetheart might have the best heart-to-heart conversation on Monday. It'll bring you closer because you'll genuinely want to listen to each other's musings. You'll tickle your lover's cerebellum with intellectually stimulating thoughts that sparkle. Then on Sunday, it's possible that you'll make a sudden—and positive—decision regarding your love life.

Taurus *April 20—May 20*
Financial news on Monday might prompt you to offer your sweetheart an extra-generous gift. Then on Sunday, it's possible that your mate will help you finally market one of your most pioneering talents. Having your lover as your cheerleader will be an amazing source of support. Expect success!

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

W	A	G	E	R		B	R	A	D		O	A	K	S
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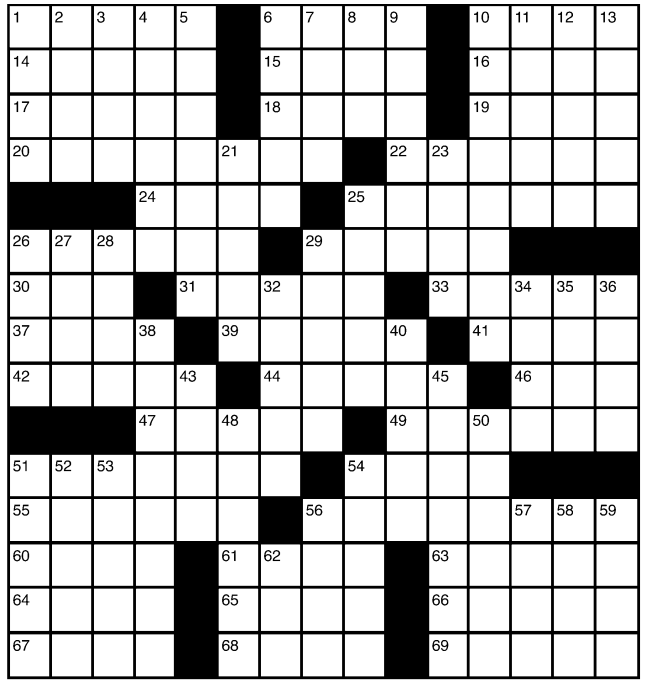
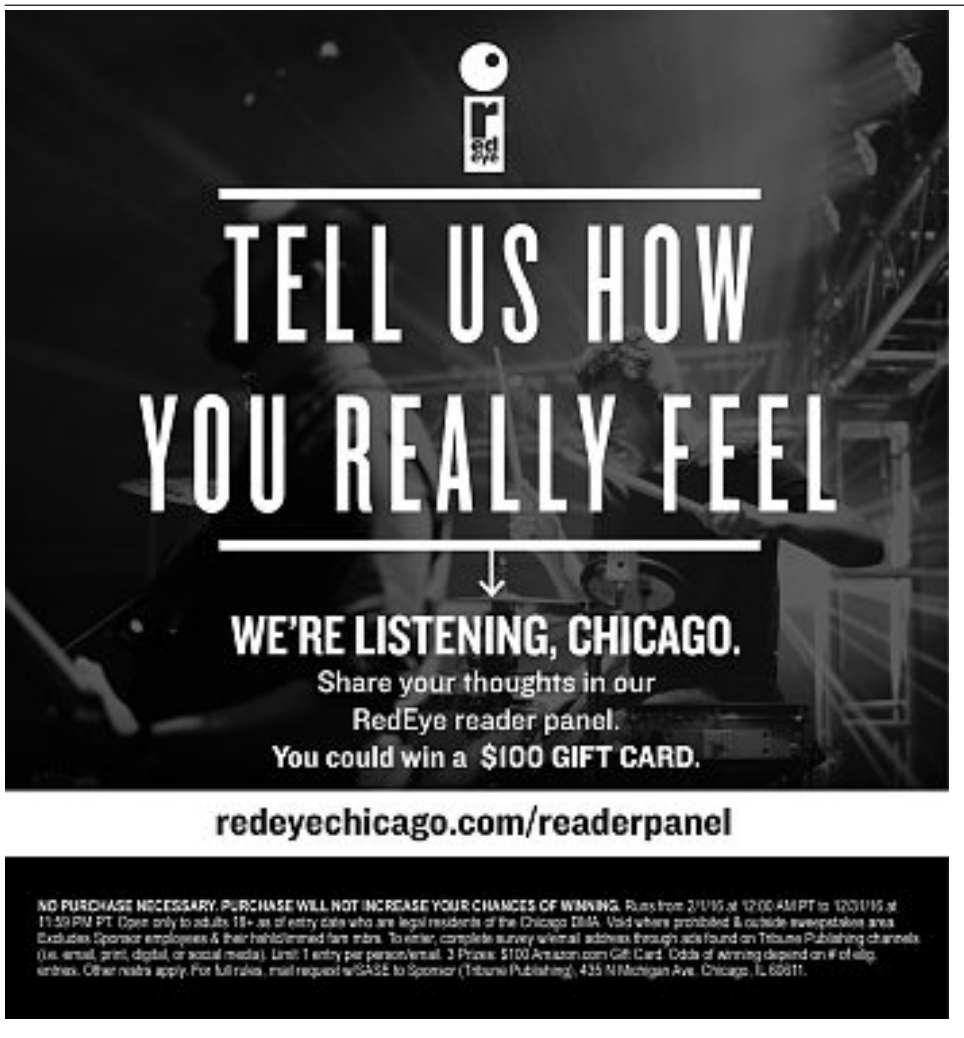
TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

» Rapper **Vic Mensa** (23)
» Actress **Ellie Kendrick** (26)
» News anchor **Natalie Morales** (44)
» Actor **Jason Isaacs** (53)
» Actor **Paul Giamatti** (49)
» Actor **Robert Englund** (69)

ACROSS
1 __ over; reads intently
6 West or Wylie
10 Farce; mockery
14 Representative
15 Acting part
16 Mist; fogginess
17 Livid
18 Spur on
19 Be adjacent to
20 Result of a high fever, perhaps
22 Clothing
24 Give a traffic ticket to
25 Schemer
26 Ms. Lansbury
29 White adhesive
30 Mauna __
31 Firstborn of two
33 Destroy by eating away at
37 Lane
39 Keeps an ice cream cone from dripping
41 Prisoner's knife
42 Wool source
44 Tosses
46 One __ million; prized friend
47 Police car's blaring device
49 Run __; find unintentionally
51 Deserved
54 Take on employees
55 "Queen of Soul"
56 Belief that people cannot be trusted
60 __-Cola
61 Enlarge a hole
63 Money, slangily
64 Strong __ ox
65 Primary
66 "__ or shut up!"
67 Cried
68 Phoenix team
69 Shadowboxes

DOWN
1 __ for; bought
2 Meanie
3 Authentic
4 Lure; tempt
5 Germfree
6 Quarrel
7 Unhappy fate
8 Neighbor of Georgia: abbr.
9 Military awards
10 Breaks into bits
11 Customary practice
12 Shade of blue
13 "Lovely Rita, __-maid..."
21 Know-__; wiseacre
23 Carry
25 Rosa or Bert
26 Mont Blanc's range
27 Ark builder
28 Fence opening
29 Nut variety
32 Chopped finely
34 Where you'll find Columbus
35 Clamors
36 Perón & Gabor
38 Uncertain and thus slow to act
40 Laundry woe
43 __ helmet; hard hat
45 Pinches pennies
48 Provides with fresh weapons
50 Gain back money lost
51 Colorful parrot
52 Jagged
53 Summarize
54 Choir songs
56 Abel's brother
57 Smidgen
58 Cheap shot
59 Atlas pages
62 __ de cologne





red hot

THE QUOTE

"... I decided not to get too agitated about it and simply state quite firmly that Hermione can be a black woman with my absolute blessing and enthusiasm."

—**J.K. Rowling**, to The Observer, in response to criticism about British actress Noma Dumezweni, who is black, playing the role of Hermione Granger in the upcoming London stage production of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child"

THE DIGIT

$1B

That's how much money "Zootopia" has made at the global box office. According to **deadline.com**, the Disney movie made $4.4 million worldwide this weekend and became the studio's second movie to pass the billion-dollar mark this year, behind "Captain America: Civil War." Money, money.

Demi and Fez are done

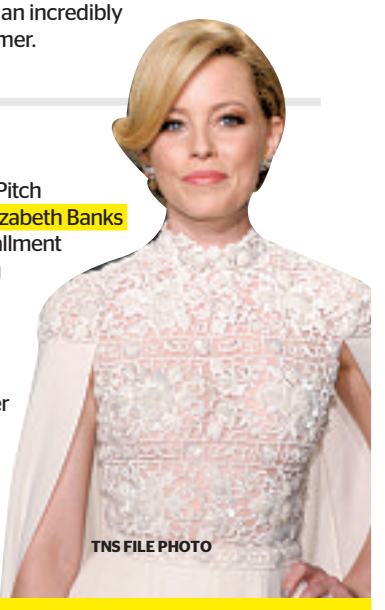
Demi Lovato and Wilmer Valderrama announced through a joint statement that they have broken up after six years of dating, according to **eonline.com** "After almost 6 loving and wonderful years together, we have decided to end our relationship. This was an incredibly difficult decision for both of us, but we have realized more than anything that we are better as best friends." Oh, bummer.

OMG.

There's a possibility that FX's "Archer" might not return to the small screen. According to **avclub.com**, the ratings for the show have been dropping steadily for the past few seasons. But if the show doesn't return to TV, the creative team has been working on an idea for a live-action film version of the show. And who are they eyeing for Sterling Archer? Jon Hamm. Whaaaaat? That would be awesome. Producer Matt Thompson told The Daily Beast, "It's all up to whatever [creator] Adam [Reed] wants to do, but he and I have definitely talked about it. We vacillate between if you do it, why are you doing the TV show? And should it be live-action, or should it be cartoon?" We don't care really, we just want "Archer" in our lives.

Bye, Banks

After being delayed five months, "Pitch Perfect 3" needs a new director. Elizabeth Banks was tapped to direct the third installment of the Barden Bellas after directing last year's "Pitch Perfect 2," but she has backed out because of an increasingly packed schedule, according to **variety.com**. Banks will continue to serve as a producer and will also reprise her role as a capella competition commentator Gail. Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson and Brittany Snow are all signed on to return, according to Variety. Aca-Okayyy.



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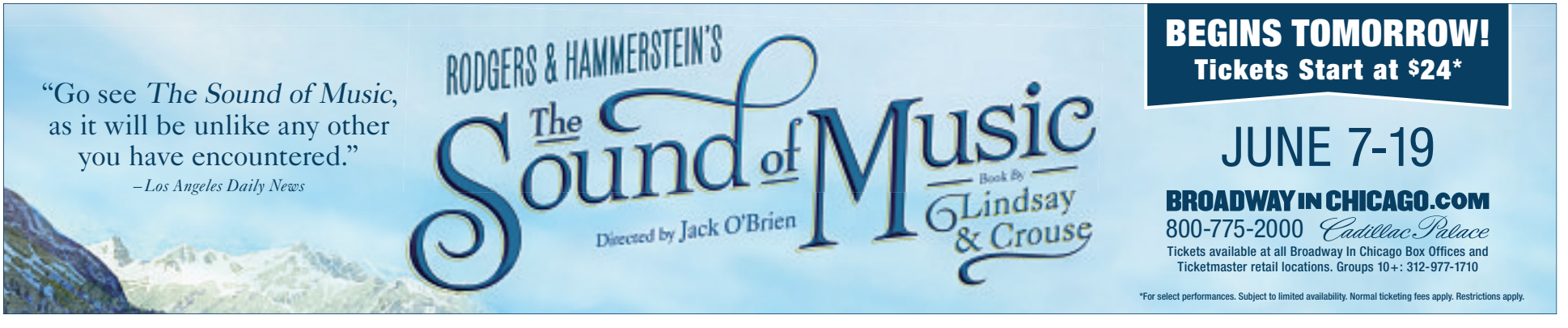
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